

EL FARO

PUERTO RICAN EDUCATORS

FEB. 1991

Los Tres Reyes Magos Salen Binean

Our organization was able to collect 700 toys for the needy on January 8, 1991. PRER co-sponsored the traditional 3 Kings Day Parade organized by PRCR in Newark. We want to thank all those who in their own special way made this event a memorable one.

We would be nothing without the support of our members. This toy distribution proved once again "que cuando se quiere, se puede."

Special thanks to the staff of the Newark Bilingual Office, Franklin St. Roberto Clemente, Central High, Elliot St., Abington, Miller, First Ave., McKinley St., and all those who made their contributions directly to the Office of Bilingual Education.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

On May 11, 1991, PRER will hold a conference of Puerto Rican educators, Parents and students at Essex County College. The conference will be titled "A Call for a Dialogue." Details will follow.

A FORTALECER NUESTRA ORGANIZACION Por José E. Velázquez Vice-Presidente, PRER

No sería exagerado decir que los educadores puertorriqueños nos vemos a enfrentar a situaciones difíciles en los próximos años. La recesión económica y la alta conservadora que azota al país pondrán en peligro muchos logros que se han obtenido a través de luchas de nuestra comunidad. A la misma vez, como demuestra el alto nivel de deserción escolar, el sistema educativo se encuentra en una profunda crisis y no parece poder resolver las necesidades educativas de la comunidad puertorriqueña. Más que nunca necesitamos fortalecer a la Asociación de Educadores Puertorriqueños (APER) como un instrumento de lucha para defender los intereses de nuestra profesión y comunidad.

La Junta de Directores tendrá que desarrollar un proceso de reorganización dirigido a enfrentar los retos de los próximos años. Impulsamos todas por desarrollar una nueva actitud. El trabajo de hacer crecer y fortalecer a APER tiene que ser tarea de todos los miembros. Participemos en las actividades de PRER según nuestras posibilidades y ofrezcamos críticas constructivas para adelantar nuestros objetivos.

(cont. en la pg. 2)

**A fortalecer
(serie de pgs. 1)**

Próximamente, pondremos en acción un proceso de reorganización destacando los siguientes puntos:

"Una campaña de reclutamiento de nuevos miembros. Esto incluirá el diseño de un nuevo "membership kit" así como un sistema de seguimiento al pago de las cuotas.

"Un esfuerzo para ampliar a PREB a nivel estatal, mientras que consolidamos en la ciudad de Newark.

"La computerización de nuestra lista de miembros.

"La búsqueda de derechos postales de segunda clase.

"La tirada constante del FARE.

"El desarrollo de un comité sobre asuntos educativos.

Esperamos que todas se unan a estas esfuerzos para fortalecer a PREB.



EDUCATIONAL ISSUES MEETS

The Educational Issues Committee held its first meeting on Jan. 31, 1991. Eva Ortiz, Director of Academics for the Newark Central Cluster Program, has graciously accepted to chair this committee. The committee has been charged with the immediate task of designing the educational component of the May 11th conference. The committee will also be tackling issues such as Bilingual Education, Multicultural initiatives as well as researching the status of the Puerto Rican child in New Jersey schools. Your input is needed. For further information call or write to PREB.

PUERTO RICAN EDUCATORS

**"IT'S YOUR TURN, SO WHAT
YOU WANT TO DO!"**

PREB is actively recruiting members for the following committees:

1. Newsletter
2. Educational Issues
3. Social Committee
4. Membership

If you want to join one of these committees, please call:

Janette Colon (201) 450-9252
Joan E. Velazquez (201) 484-8500

Or write to: PREB P.O. Box 9257
Newark, N.J. 07104

ALERT! ALERT!

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

In April 1991, the city of Newark will hold its annual election for the members of the Newark Board of Education. Ivette Alfonso, a PREB Board member, has represented the Latino community for 8 years on the Newark Board of Education. However, Ivette has recently made known her decision not to seek reelection in 1991. We commend Ivette for her work which has required enormous amount of sacrifice and dedication, and we wish her well in all her new endeavors.

Out of 9 members, Ivette was the only Latino representative on the Board. Taking note of the Hispanic student population of Newark, we can state that our community is underrepresented on the Board of Education.

It has recently come to our attention that two candidates, Tina Cruz and Maritza Torres-Fald have made public their intentions to run for the Newark Board of Education. The realities of two campaigns vying for support has raised the possibility of neither being elected.

The specter of being left without any Latino representation on the Newark Board of Education is undoubtedly of great concern to our association. We will keep our membership abreast of the situation while attempting to make our voices and concerns heard in this process.

José E. Delacruz
Vice-Pres. PREB

We are asking our members who work in the Newark High School to help us identify students who might want to participate in our PREB student essay contest. Students who participate will receive an intensive 3 day course in Language Arts. Hopefully, these mini-courses will enhance HSPT Language Arts abilities.

ESSAY TOPIC

"No America prepares to celebrate 500 years since its 'discovery', where are we as Puerto Rican youth headed in the 21st Century."

The essay may cover any facet of Puerto Rican life and must be at least 400 words in length for English dominant students and at least 200 words in length for the LEP student category.

Prizes in each category
are as follows:

1st Place - \$200

2nd Place - \$100

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: April 4, 1991

Notification: All students who participate in the essay contest should be present at the May 31st Conference.

